

August 12, 2020

Representative Danny K. Davis, Chairman  
Representative Jackie Walorski, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Davis and Ranking Member Walorski:

The below Indiana child and family welfare agencies once again write to strongly support bipartisan legislation from your offices that will increase our ability to serve and support youth and their families across Indiana. The *Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act* (H.R. 7947) is another example of smart, responsive legislation that is targeted to pressing needs in our communities. We continue to be thankful for your leadership and commitment to collaboration as you ensure that federal child welfare policy and funding provide us the resources we need to deliver the services that Hoosier children and their families deserve.

As agencies that work with children and their families every day, we know how necessary the *Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act* is. The stress and hardship that the COVID-19 pandemic is creating for our children and families is unprecedented. The practical provisions in this bill will:

1. Help older youth navigate high rates of job loss, housing instability, and uncertain educational opportunities;
2. Create needed flexibility and additional federal support for implementation of the prevention programs outlined by the Families First Prevention Services Act;
3. Increase funding for services and programs to support birth, foster, adoptive and kinship families through additional support for the MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program;
4. Make Kinship Navigator programs available to families statewide by waiving certain statutory requirements that can't be met by states in the current environment and increasing federal investment in these programs; and,
5. Help young parents succeed by making sure that home visiting programs have the resources and staff they need to provide uninterrupted services.

Like all of us, your subcommittee has been called upon to respond to unexpected, and sometimes unimaginable, crises since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to your collaborative leadership, the response has been urgent, targeted, and practical. The *Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act* is another example of this.

As agencies working everyday to navigate new challenges on top of the existing challenges our children and their families face, we proudly send this letter of support and thanks to two of our strongest champions for our nation's families.

Sincerely,

Adult and Child Health

Bashor Children's Home

CAPS – Child and Parent Services

Centerstone

Childplace Family Services

Children & Family Services, Corp

Children's Bureau, Inc.

Choices Coordinated Care Services

Columbus Behavioral Center for Children and Adolescents

Crisis Center, Inc

Damar Services

Embrace Consulting, LLC.

Family Ark

Family Community Connections

Families First Indiana

Family Focus

Family Solutions, Inc

Family Time

Family Works, Inc.

Foster Success

George Junior Republic in Indiana

Gibault Child Services

Group Homes for Children

Hoosier Families, Inc

Indiana Association of Resources and Child Advocacy

Indiana MENTOR

Life Choices Maternity & Youth Home

LifeSolutions Counseling, PC

Michiana Behavioral Health  
Omni Visions in Indiana  
Open Arms  
Open Door Youth Services  
Paddock View Residential Center, Inc.  
PSI Services of Indiana  
SCAN, Inc  
StepStone Family and Youth Services  
T.C. Harris School  
United Methodist Youth Home  
The Villages of Indiana  
White's Residential and Family Services  
Whittington Homes & Services for Children and Families  
Youth Encouragement Services, Inc.  
Youth Services Bureau, Jay County  
Youth Services Bureau of St. Joe County  
Youth Villages